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LETTER OF JAMES LOGAN TO HANNAH PENN.

[The following interesting letter of James Logan to Hannah Penn is in the Logan Papers, Manuscript Department of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

PHILAD^IA 1 . 11mo 172$\frac{5}{6}$

HONOURED MISTRESS,

Tho I have wrote very largely to thy ffamily of late by sundry Conveyances, yet I cannot lett this opportunity pass without addressing thee in particular in regard to y^e Transactions of the last year in thy Province, on which I must beg leave to observe That notwithstanding I have led a Life, for about 25 years past fill'd wth a continued Series of anxiety & trouble on acco^t of yor affairs (while my own, by which I principally gett my Living flow'd as smoothly and easily as most other mens) yet nothing ever more deeply affected me, than the unhappy Success of those Instructions I brought over from thee to Wm Keith, for wch I well know I am in no small measure accountable to you and I have only this to say for my self that the fatal step was wholly owing to my Weakness in not believing after so long an Experience of Mankind there could be any of the Species found bearing ye Character of a Gentleman, & endued with but a common share of good sense, who could be so insensible to all the Obligations of Duty, as to make the use of them that S^r Wm. has done of these rational and justifiable Ord^rs another wrong Step, I doubt was my writing the Memorial which I did not then expect to see published, for that gave the Govr and D. Ll. a handle to work up to themselves a kind of Merit among the weaker Sort that is the greater number of the People. To the Govern^rs answer to that Memorial I drew up a Reply wch I presented to the assembly but would not suffer it to be printed, nor did I design to take further notice of D. Ll's till drove to it by the uses he made of his, as well as by the persuasions of

your best friends who insisted on it as my Duty. These at length produced the Antidote which has generally given the well affected full Satisfaction. A dozen of them only were printed off (but with too many Errors) the night before Annis sailed. In ye last page I made some alterations but hesitated near 2 months longer about their Publication being then unseasonable, besides that I was really ashamed of ye Contest as a Reproach both to the Province and the Profession. But D. Ll's Paper being spread all over the Countrey had done much mischief gott him into ye Assembly (is our further Scandal) and perverted the Understanding of many, who from my silence accounted it unanswerable. I therefore sent mine abroad & a few dayes after recv'd a Lett^r^ from the Govr intended by him for the Press wch it has since pass'd. You will judge of it there by ye Copies now sent. He is privately solliciting (I find) to have the Governm^t^ of New Jersey under Coll. Burnett to which his fine Syllogisen if presented to the Ministry, will not I believe very much recommend him. I have noted some of its Errors and with these I send a Copy or two of the Antidote as it was published which I design shall be the last of that kind from me that shall ever see the light.

I hear further from Engl^d^ that the E. of Southerl^d^ is renewing his application for our Lower Counties wch tis believed is owing to your Division and astonishing neglect of your own affairs which will naturally lead People to believe there is no absurdity in conveying them into other hands. For my own part I am overwhelm'd with the thoughts of them, while I see nothing but trouble following trouble, as Waves roll after waves in the Sea, the cause of all which is plain is owing to those fatal Mistakes in the Beginning. In taking a Title at first to those Counties that was not legal and then not perfecting it while practicable. In not fixing the Line with the L. Baltimore when it might easily be done and in heaping things called Privileges on a People who neither know how to use them, nor how to be grateful for them. I must however here

note the Consequence of those Counties being alienated from your ffamily especially by an absolute Grant of the Interest without regard to the Grants formerly made viz. The Trade of the Province will sink, It will create inextricable difficulties in Answering the Peoples Demands for what they formerly paid in their Wrong, as it will then be called, and your Receivers when molested must come again upon you for Satisfaction & finally it will fix an Indelible Reproach &c. I can scarce however believe it possible that it should be brought to such an Extremity. The Courts are not to be depended on without Money and Interest. The address from the Assembly of those Counties to our present Govr immediately after his first Accession, if properly applied may very much Strengthen you. You have the Original Compleat and I hear enclose a Copy of it. His Behaviour in that affair (which was press'd on principally by two or three of ye Council) gave cause to suspect what afterw^{ds} more fully appear'd, viz his holding with the hound & running with the hare, & now tis probable he is at ye bottom or in concert wth the other in his motions. Two things I desire may be remembred viz. that New Castle and a Circle of 12 miles round it was granted by the D. of York absolutely without any other Reservation than (I think) a Crown piece or 5 shills. Yearly, ffor all ye Rest below half ye Rents & Profits were reserved to the Duke & at least one half of them is now due in Arrears so that the Bargain in that part might without refunding be complied with. What else relates to the Title you have formerly had it from me very largely.

Money I know is wanting to bring on a Settlem^{t} of those affairs (I speak not of your family Dispute) to gett which, since it equally affects both sides, If you would joyntly agree in an Authentic Power to raise and remit some for that particular purpose, You might, tho' with a disadvantageous exchange, have sufficient to carry on what is to be done in that way.

Our Assembly last month granted the Govern^{r} 400 lb. and being to meet again next week he expects (& will

labour hard for it) to prevail on them for the usual yearly allowance. They have drawn up two addresses, which goe home by this Vessel, One to the King to thank him for His Sanction to our late Affirmation Act. It is to be sent I suppose to Joshua Gee & Jos: Wyeth who tis probable will scarce give themselves much trouble about it. The other is for your Family in behalf of Sr William who has been at great pains to obtain Recommendations. After his ill success with the last Assembly who could never be prevailed on to say one word in his favour He applied last 7th moth to our Yearly Meeting in this place for a Certificate, but failing of that also. You will find by the inclosed votes how the House was drove to speak for him. This address was at first intended for Springet only, but they soon discovered their Mistake & therefore send it to both, I have never yet seen it.

I have so often spoke & have said so much of the extream Confusion All Proprietary affairs are & must be in till the ffamily Dispute is ended & proper Measures are taken thereupon that I shall not attempt to add any thing here. We expect another Govern^{r} but that will not avail much in this case. Tis a final and absolute settlem^{t} of the Right that is wanted, and the Presence of the Proprietary himself to direct how his Lands shall be disposed of, ffor I doubt not but there are at this time near a hund^{d} thous^{d} Acres possess'd by persons who resolutely sitt down and improve without any manner of Right or Pretence to it. Some, tis true have had a permission to prevent worse from coming into the place, yet most of them are so poor that they have nothing to pay with, & therefore will expect or endeavour to be allow'd as Renters. An unruly sort of Palatines have by encouragem^{t} from the Govr entred upon (as I formerly mentioned) about 20 thous^{d} Acres in one Tract, the best that was left undisposed of in his Province and how they are to be dealt with is beyond my skill to judge nor can it be to any purpose to treat with them, till Terms can be absolutely proposed and Titles be made to them, but I question whether this ought to be done, for ten thous^{d} acres were laid out there by young Rees Thomas (without any

authority tis true) for his Uncle Wm. Aubrey in Right of Latitia's Legacy in the Will which he has sold at a great price to a Member of Parlm^{t} who expects to enjoy it there. But it would be endless to enter into the Detail of these things, I shall therefore only proceed to say That being quite tired with the perplexities arising from ye Unsettled State of your affairs and the Embarassment of the Powers of Governm^{t} by the Will I have for some years past believed & have mentioned it in two Letters to thy Uncle that as it would be for the Peace, so it might be for the Interest of thy family to compound with Springet for a handsome Sum, for the whole Interest here and in my last to thy Son was particular on that head, but lest I should be thought partial, I must here observe that some Lands wch lately was thought would scarce ever be accounted worth taking up, are now, notwithstanding their Rocks and Hills of some value for the wood to make Charcoal for the Ironworks which within these last 12 Months are in divers places vigorously carrying on and may beyond expectation become an advantageous Improvem^{t} of this Country. Inquiring diligently of Jos. ffarmer who first sett the Work on Northeast on foot, he represented the Charge of a Furnace & finishing the first Blast with the fforges to be 12000^{kts} sterl, but tis now believ'd it may be done with about a third of the Money. Divers Companies are now going on with them, and as the Countrey abounds wth ore, we might with the conveniency of Water Carriage in time almost Supply Engl^{d} with Iron. But alas we have but one side of but one River that is navigable. We may however have some advantages of making Returns more easily by that method if the Success proves answerable to the Vast Charge. This I thought necessary to hint here, I mentioned also my design to take over my family next ffall to Bristol but know not how my Wifes Resolution may hold out. She brought me a Son the 12th of Nov^{br} last named Charles after her father & brother, and presents her most hearty Respects to thee. Hannah Hill has long kept her bed through a heavy Indisposition, but tis hoped She is recovering.

One thing deserving your Notice I had omitted to remark on the head of the Lower Counties wch is that the Govr having while I was absent granted a Charter of Incorporation to the City of Newcastle (as tis now called) of wch you were then informed by R. Hill and I. Norris, the notion propagated among the People was that these Counties belong'd solely to the King, for there was not the least notice taken or mention made of ye Propriet^{r} in that Charter, and all ffriends were excluded by it. Soon after a Dispute arose about the Boundaries of Newcastle and Chester Counties. Those of the Province insisted on the Circular Line of 12 miles from Newcastle run in 1701 by the Proprietors Ord^{r} but others urged that Newcastle now (by their Charter) extended to 5 miles distance from ye Town and therefore that these 12 miles should be measured from that Extent which would take in a Ring of 5 miles more out of the Province and throw even the Town of Chester into Newcastle County, of wch Endeavours are now used to deprive you. That this was a form'd Design at that time and that it was resolved to quarrel with you and therefore with me in course I think is not to be doubted.

15th 12$^{mo.}$ The foregoing having been wrote above Six weeks since, has by y^{e} Shutting up of our River (now opening again) lain till this time for a Conveyance and I must here add from y^{e} experience of this Winter, that I find the severe effects of that cruel Distemper (wch so violently seized my head soon after my last arrival) to a degree that nothing but a retirem^{t} from business will preserve me capable of being much longer useful to my family of wch my wife is so sensible that nothing short of it will make her easie. If any Lines however are to be run on the Settlem^{t} with Maryl^{d} you may I hope depend on my assistance. That you may finish that and all your affairs to Satisfaction & once come to know ye comforts of Peace and a quiet Establishm^{t} is the most earnest Desire of

Thy faithful friend & Servant

Recd. 3^{d} May 1726. JAMES LOGAN.